

THE OFFICIAL X-MEN FAN CLUB MAGAZINE

CEREBRO

No. 3 Vol. 1

35p
NON-PAYING



X-ETORIAL

offers

Hi mutant watchers,

The great fun of preparing an issue of CERE BRO is that I get the chance to read all the material first; put it all together & find how little space I've actually got left, especially for this column.

We've reached # 3 in time for X-MAS, which is very appropriately named for the X-MEN. Our scheduling of being bimonthly has put us ahead of most review columns & any external publicity of this issue will not be seen until # 4 comes out which is in MARCH-which, by the way will contain news of the X-AMS for 1979.

I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have. I'd like to thank all contributors, especially the members I keep in the swim: the ARTIST POOL: DAVE BRUSEY (#82); DAVE GUTLER (#55); STEVE "LANGY" LANGFORD (#83); ALASTAIR MABBOTT (#86); T.J. PHOENIX (#60); GORDON SMITH (#78); MIKE TEAQUE (#68); JONATHAN VENOSI (#80); HASSAN YUSUF (#73) & special thanks to DAVE "APOCALYPSE" HORNSBY (#62) for that gut-rendering illo further in, & who is currently also doing work for the PHOENIX PUBLICATION "DWELLERS OF THE UNIVERSE".

Members, contributions of letters, articles & art should be in by 14th FEBRUARY 1979 for CERE BRO # 4.

Feel free to write any time & enclose an SAE and you'll know then that I always reply. My X-MAS message is on the back page, so....

'til Santa Claws is declared a mutant.

Geoff Lamprey

"CERE BRO" is the official bimonthly publication of the OFFICIAL X-MEN FAN CLUB - published & edited by: G.F. WILLIAMS.

Subs per annum £3.00 (includes distribution of 6 issues of CERE BRO; membership card; access to offers, comps., etc.-please enquire. The Club is organised by fans for fans & is therefore

NON-profit making.

All characters, especially the X-MEN, are (c) MARVEL COMICS GROUP 1978/79.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

There has been a great response since # 2, so incase anyone missed it or think they are no longer available: here they are again: ORIGINAL COVER CONCEPTS OF X-MEN COVERS by DAVE COCKRUM of # 112; alternative cover (not used) of #112; #115-indiv. at 30p each; all 3 for 80p (inc.p&p)

The copies of these have been extremely popular & I shall be attempting to get some more if it is possible of other covers.

INTERIOR ARTWORK by DAVE COCKRUM; copies of pg.10 of #101; pg.10 of #107; pg.27 of #107 at 35p each; all 3 for 90p (inc.p&p). N.B. The originals cost from £25 to buy.

A2 size b&w poster of the young Ororo as depicted in # 102; 35p(inc.p&p).

X-MEN LETTERING on TEE-SHIRT-design as words on membership card; £1.65(inc.p&p) Please state choice of at least 3 different colour preferences.

CHEQUES or P.O.'s made payable to me.



CAPTION COMPETITION

MAKE UP A SUITABLE CAPTION OR SPEECH BALLOONS FOR THE FRONT COVER. ALL WILL BE PUBLISHED. THE ONE I CONSIDER TO BE THE FUNNIEST WILL RECEIVE THE ORIGINAL COVER WHICH WAS DRAWN ON A2 SIZE PAPER. ENTRIES IN BY 25th JANUARY 1979, PLEASE.

ONCE UPON AN ICEMAN...



ROBERT DRAKE was born in a small backwoods town in NASSAU COUNTY. His parents realized his mutant ability of creating absolute cold at an early age. Probably through his endurance to cold conditions & continually creating ice to keep himself cool in the long hot summer months. Fearing for his safety, his parents warned him never to use this ability in the presence of others- a promise he kept until his teens.

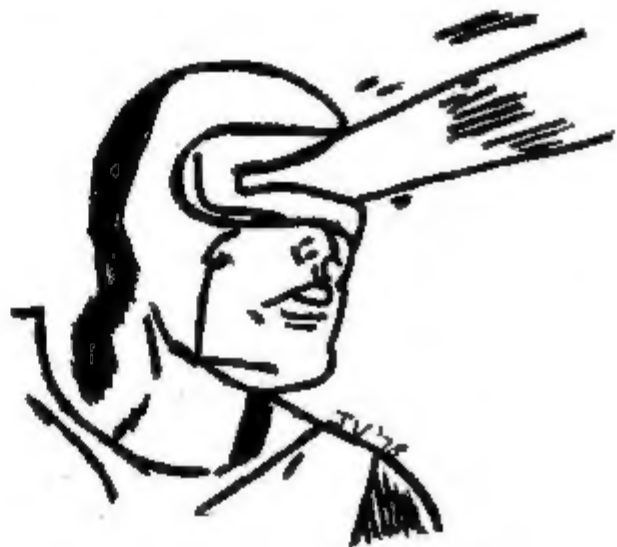
It is believed that certain energy levels began to manifest sometime in 1963-the sudden influx of induced abilities in the recognized FANTASTIC FOUR, members of THE AVENGERS & the appearance of SPIDER-MAN. To those who possessed natural or mutant abilities this would tend to act as a breaking out point while the population was getting used to these new type of people. 1963 was obviously the year of breakout for a new generation of mutant population.

While escorting a girl, known as Judy Harmon home, "Bobby" Drake was set upon by a local gang of thugs. Fearing for her safety, young Drake freezes their leader

in ice, causing the rest of them to flee. Miss Harmon, likewise scared, also runs off, leaving a confused young mutant who runs off, equally scared, for his own home. His parents decide they had better leave town. Meanwhile, the entire town hears of the incident & a rabble of angry men come to the house. Drake, senior, is shoved out of the way, leaving Drake younger to resort to his ice-forming abilities to try to keep them back. Bobby Drake is apprehended, & taken by a car to the local jail.

A report of this was in the papers the following day & noted by one PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER. It is believed that Drake was also on his list of probable mutants & that this prompted action to get him to safety.

Early evening, Bobby Drake receives a visitor, through a hole blasted through the cell-wall- Xavier's first X-MAN : CYCLOPS.



Cyclops tried convincing Drake it would be safer to get out while he had the chance. Drake was unconvinced, since he believed no jury would convict him because he had only used his powers in self-defense.

Meanwhile, in the outer office of the jail, the posse that had brought him in were becoming restless in case he used his ice powers again.

Cyclops blasts a hole directly behind Drake & throws both himself & the younger mutant through it. Drake, by reflex, freezes his whole body, resembling a walking snowman, as their fall was broken by a large awning 8 feet from the ground. This did not go unnoticed, & it caused the posse & the sheriff to

run out of the jailhouse with loaded rifles. It should be pointed out that the Sheriff instructed them unless he gave the word. Cyclops & the young "ICEMAN" found themselves fighting not only each other but also avoiding them as well. Drake was, at that time, under the impression that Cyclops was some sort of criminal wanting to get him into trouble & as soon as he could get away from "this strange guy with eye-rays" would turn himself over to the authorities. Cyclops was doing his best to keep these "authorities" from shooting Drake. Confrontation between Cyclops & Drake came to a head on the pier side & after a long equal fight neither had the strength to go on, & found themselves surrounded by loaded rifles.

When Drake saw the ropes & realized their intension, he suddenly realized the threat that Cyclops had meant. The sheriff tried to stop this, but was accused of being a 'MUTANT-LOVER' & pushed to one side & held down by members of the mob. Drake & Cyclops were pulled along by a rope around their bodies to a nearby tree.

Charles Xavier, was now en route to the town. His later arrival was

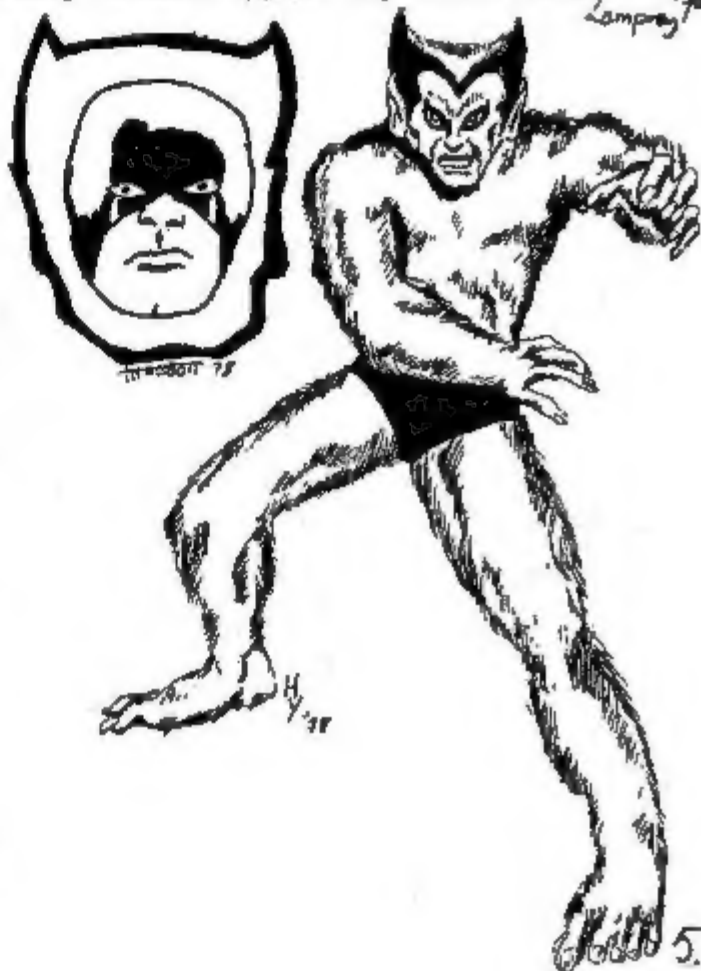
probably due to settling legal affairs & to prevent any type of follow-up story by the press (so what was already published would just be regarded as sheer rumour). Realizing the danger they were both in, Xavier ordered Cyclops, telepathically, to free them both & to run for the Drake home. A task Cyclops carried out by blasting the rope hauled up to noose Drake & scattering the rest of the mob. They soon regrouped & began chasing. Then they were gone. The Professor informed them telepathically that he had induced a memory loss in the mob & since they didn't know what they were chasing, had stopped following them. Xavier met them there and told him, that his parents had consented him to become a student at his school. Drake decided to join, & Xavier erased any thoughts of mutant powers from Drake's parents so as to remove any anxiety from them. And so it was that the X-MEN acquired it's second member-BOBBY DRAKE, THE ICEMAN ! LAMPREY '78.

ALTERNATE NAMES

I wonder if the X-MEN would have had the same sort of characters if they had already been given different names ? Ginny Brennan played this game at me, so now we'll give you the chance to play. I've approached a few members for suggestions already & their printed below. When you read a name, think of it in terms of the character you know & you'll realize just how familiar you've become with them. In otherwords, the name does a great deal into making the character what he is...I mean you can't really take a Professor RALPH Xavier seriously can you ???

Ralph (#52) ; Herbert (#53) XAVIER
Cecil (#51) ; Trevor (#53) McCOY
William (#51) ; Nigel WORTHINGTON III
Sunny (#51) ; Kiran (#53) SUMMERS (Cyke)
Cuthbert (#53) ; Buddy (#51) DRAKE
Chasity (#53) ; Ethel (#52) GRAY
Eric (#53) ; Adolph (#51) WAGNER
Hylde ; Charlotte (#51) MUNROE
Josef (#51) ; Johnny (#53) RASPUTIN
Sidney ; Patrick (#51) CASSIDY
Alfred (#53) ; Oscar (#51) LOGAN
Broderick (#51) ; Fergus (#53) SUMMERS (Havok)
Valerie (#53) ; Greta (#51) DANE

My thanks to Frank Plowright (#53) ; & Ginny Brennan (#52). Any other ideas ?? Lamprey '78



5.

SURVEY #1: data received

Well, considering this was the first SURVEY that I've held through the Club I've received 17 replies, which isn't too bad. So any conclusions that I bring from this, is based on those. To those who didn't return a reply, please write if you strongly disagree with the observations that now take place. I'd like to carry out another SURVEY next issue, so if you want to submit questions, please put SURVEY REQUEST # 2 on your envelopes.

To confuse everybody from the start, I'll commence with question 1 first-namely you all want to know my own opinions to the questions. Since, I'm getting to know what you think as well, that's fair & square, although I shall keep my remarks short because of the space.

1). Should we be called another name other than "THE OFFICIAL X-MEN FAN CLUB"?

14 said NO, to which I agree. (N.B. 18 took part if I include myself)

Of the 4 who wanted it changed, one thought it was too long winded, another thought it should be more imaginative. Another thought we ought to add U.K. to the title. That's an interesting point, but it would only be valid if there was one in the States-to which I gather there isn't (is there?). But like one said that's what we are so the name should stick.

CONCLUSION : We'll REMAIN "THE OFFICIAL X-MEN FAN CLUB" !

2). Update your 3 favourite X-Men in current preference.

Well, here I'm staying out of it, cos' the results are too close to warrant mine.

1st FAVOURITE : STORM & WOLVERINE
(4 firsts each)
2nd FAVOURITE : WOLVERINE (5)
 PHOENIX (4)
3rd FAVOURITE : STORM (5)
 NIGHTCRAWLER (4)

If you combine all the scores to see who cropped up in all 3 choices :

COLLECTIVELY : WOLVERINE (12)
 STORM (11)
 NIGHTCRAWLER (10)
 PHOENIX (9)

so as you can see it was pretty close. Since this was based on personal



choice I shaln't throw out any conclusions. One question though, has STORM being killing anybody recently ??

3). Since circumstances indicate that the calender would not be available By Christmas, would you be in favour of collecting it as a supplement to CEREBRO, exclusive to members FREE & purchasable by non-Members at moderate costs to cover printing ?

Thank God, for circumstances. Dave Hornsby has sent in a superb picture for JANUARY, but as I'm writing this I haven't got FEBRUARY. If you find it in your envelope you know it's on schedule, if not you'll get it or rather the first segment with # 4. There was a MAJORITY in favour on this. NON-MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE : Each 2 monthly segment is 25p or an order for the complete work at £2.50 (inc. p&p). This is a VERY LIMITED edition & will probably turn into a COLLECTORS ITEM!!

4) Should non-members contribute to CEREBRO & take part in CLUB affairs?
11 said no

7 said yes

I tend to agree with one of the remarks that one member gave. Namely, "if anyone can contribute, why have a Club ?" Why indeed ? After all if it wasn't for the money subs the Club would not exist, so by rights CEREBRO IS CLUB MEMBERS ONLY.

This doesn't stop advertisers paying for ad. space but it does give a lot more people an opportunity

to get into fandom because they have a better idea of whom they might be competing with-& many members are finding the fandom world opening up to them. Read X-FAN : 67 on the letter page, he says it better than me! 5). Would you be interested in X-Men headed note-paper, etc.?

10 said yes

7 said no

I think the biggest inhibitor here is what should be on the paper. There is sufficient interest to get note-paper printed, but the design will have to be sorted out. As a Club, we ought to have something.

The X-Men are going to have a new logo shortly, so we'll either use that or use a design that goes around the page. Maybe both.

6). Do you buy X-Men, import, U.K. priced or both ?

BOTH : 9

IMPORT:5

U.K. : 4

Basically, this was an information question to give me an idea of who would need copies of the X-Men should they be import only. This is one question I wish I had more answers from. It's rumoured that there is to be shortly a MARVEL U.K. publication containing the NEW X-MEN. I've sent for information & also whether the all-colour copies will still come over. Will verify next issue if possible.



7). What are your Views on the Club doing X-MEN comic strips derived from the X-AMS ?

Everyone said YES - & who am I to argue. I'll be preparing copies of the scripts to be sent out over the Christmas period. The original

writer will receive a copy, so will the artist. Each will also receive my views on each one, so as to enable adaption possible. I'm sure a number of you have been thinking on ways to improve them simply because of developments in the X-Men characters themselves. I hope there won't be any argument if I'm editor. Artist/writer teams will be working together on this & it's a project I'm glad to see off the ground. Any problems let me know, & we'll get round them. 8). Would you have brought CEREBRO if you hadn't been a member & saw it in a comic shop ?

13 said yes.

3 said no (mainly cos of the covers,oops!)

Another information question, I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

9). Who is your most favourite literary character outside of comics & why ?

I think this was my most favourite question, cos everybody chose something different. I think I'll give the list to give you an idea of the scope :

The Man With No Name; James Bond; Slippery Jim deGritz (better known as the Stainless Steel Rat); Elric; Hiero (from a book by Sterling E. Lanier); the cast of Anne McCaffrey's Dragon (or Pern) novels; Simon Templar; Roj Blake; Legolas (from Lord of the Rings); Hamlet (that's right-the reasoning given on this was really interesting); Modesty Blaise; John Carter; & Asimov's robots.

The reasoning was mostly around admiration & identification to the character in question. I've read about 80% of the above. I admit I'm partial to McCaffrey's novels & Modesty Blaise, but my own is just as mysterious : it's a character called GILBERT GOSSEYN-a man possessing a double brain in a unique society of the future-from THE WORLD OF NULL-A & it's sequel THE PAWNS OF NULL-A, written by A.E.Van Vogt. N.B. I consider this hard core science fiction so don't go blaming me if you try it & find it hard going. In a way, I find it like the member who likes Hamlet : you can read it as many times as you like & still find something new in it.

10). What other fanzines do you buy or subscribe ?

Another information question :

COMIC MEDIA NEWS : 14

BEM : 10

GRAPHIC SENSE : 9

PANELOLOGIST : 7

COMICS JOURNAL : 7

those were the top of 26 listed.

11). Should we have X-Awards ?

9 said yes

6 said no

I left that more or less as an open statement to see what kind of response we would get. But as oge said, "For what ?" Send me some suggestions. Like for best issue, etc, a lot of it is going to be personal favourites & because of differing tastes is going to be diverse. If it's anything, I'd like to think of them as collective favourites.

12). Why do you LIKE the X-Men ?

Boy, I could do an article on just your answers. Now that's a good idea. As a summary, it boils down to characterisation, art & the love of fall-guys, the story line & probably the sheer magic of them. So, how do I follow that : I identify with them, & there's enough there for me to stay hooked permanently-the fact they have always had a good artist/writer team throughout their history & always treated as "a labour of love" as Dave Cockrum said.

13). Is there any X-Men merchandise you would like to have or buy ?

Another varied reply. There's enough suggestions for me to work on. Although I think adamantium claws (I wonder if SHIELD could help here ?) & a life-size model of Storm might cause some problems. I'm considering a chess-set using the X-Men & their villains as the pieces if I had to choose-but if I got enough interest in this it could be expensive so it might be made as installments. Any comments ?

14). Enquiring Stateside for back issues at reduced prices, etc. et al.

10 said yes

7 said no (but only cos they've got most of them)

I'll give more details when I've chosen the best dealer Stateside to get them from.

15). In case of DEADLINE, what ALTERNATIVE artist/writer would you like to see do the X-Men ?

I don't think anyone would like to see the set-up change as it stands-but life ain't like that.

Those chosen were mainly out of curiosity as to their treatment.

The general opinion was

Writer : JIM SHOOTER (8)

Artist : GEORGE PEREZ (5)

I can understand the artist choice, he had enough practice at the COMICON. The others : Gerber, O'Neil, MacGregor, Mantlo, Thomas, Englehart, Sal Buscema, Adams, Golden, Rogers, Russell, Kane, Sutton, Cockrum, Nebres, Griffin, Marcus & Starlin. Diversity galore. I'll just back-out on that & say YES. I think who ever did do it ought to keep the feel of what's gone before & not upset the legend all ready laid down. You're doing a good job, Chris & John. I'm especially glad that the 2 most chosen are both good friends of yours.

Well, that's the results of Survey # 1. I've only one question to ask now : DO YOU WANT ANOTHER ONE??

Contributors to Survey were :-

Frank Flowright (#53)

Stephen Langford (#83)

Baz Bond (#65)

David J. Edge (#84)

Jonathan Venosi (#80)

Dave Hornsby (#62)

Adrian Snowden (#56)

Mike Teague (#68)

Steven Whatley (#76)

Dave Cutler (#55)

Kathleen Glancy (#66)

John Gatehouse (#67)

Ginny Brennan (#52)

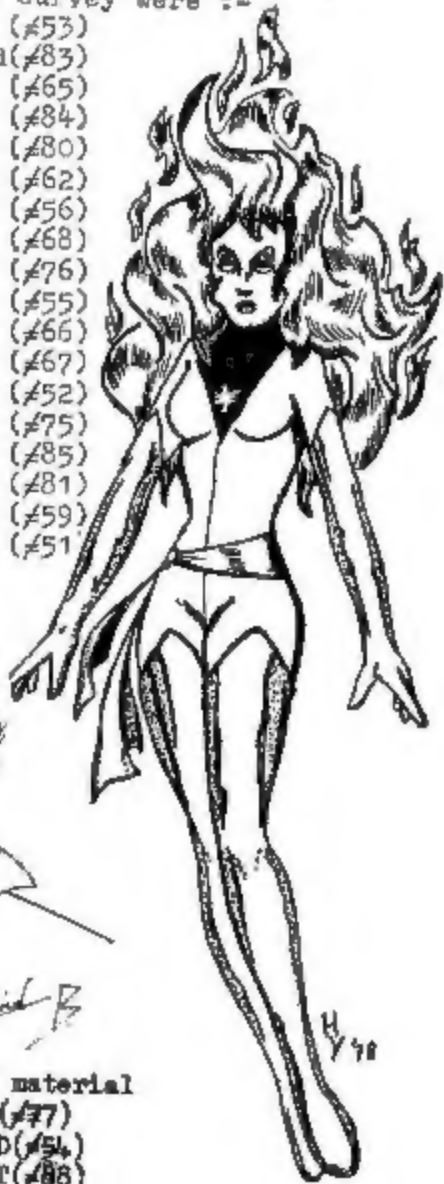
John Parker (#75)

Maureen James (#85)

Tim Sealey (#81)

Paul Buckton (#59)

& little ole me (#51)



Additional SURVEY material from : JEREMY GUY (#77)
NICK ALMOND (#54)
ALASTAIR MABBOTT (#86)
too late to be included in main article. LAMPREY '78

Christmas Presents

-a vice versa!

'Only ten shopping days till Christmas'
Mused the Banshees 'And most gifts I've got
Schnapps for Kurt, plant for Storm, Peter's vodka
And Elton John's glasses for Scott
There's the Kojak head-polish for Charlie
And the Wolverine's gallon of beer
But I CANNOT think what to get Moira
Who's, of all, most important and dear.'

'Only ten shopping days until Christmas'
Murmured Moira, preparing a meal
'And I've got all the presents wrapped safely
Except Sean's. Though I've worried a deal
I just cannot THINK what to give him
The ideas I've had don't inspire'
And she kicked Wolverine out the kitchen
(He was grabbing raw meat and looking dire).

As he flew on patrol he still pondered.
As she went to the shops she still thought.
'Would she like the new Andy Stewart album ?'
'A shillelagh I'm sure he has got.'
'Now a nice tartan shawl would she fancy ?'
'Would he like 'Shamrock Talcum for Chaps' ?'
'Could I give her a bottle of whisky ?'
'Or a bottle of whiskey, perhaps ?'

Then a swift inspiration smote Banshee.
He'd ask Xavier, who knew her well
And besides, with his mind-reading powers
Just what she wanted most he could tell.
When he asked, the Professor went scarlet
'This is bloody embarrassing, Sean
But I'll tell you just one thing-what she wants
Is what YOU want most too. Now begone !'

As it happened, the same thought struck Moira
So to Xavier she said 'Charles, my dove
Can you tell me just what sort of presents
Ultrasonic Hibernians love ?'
'After all that there once was between us',
said the Prof, 'must you ask this of me ?
Well, I'll tell you as much as I told him
That what YOU really want most-so does he.'

And so just what DID they get for Christmas ?
Well, it seems that they dropped out of sight
Very early upon Christmas morning
And did not reappear till Twelfth Night
When they both looked exhausted, but happy
But they wouldn't say where they'd been-so
What the pair gave each other for Christmas
Only he, she and Xavier know.

KATHLEEN GLANCY '78



P.S. They COULD, of course,
have gone on a whirlwind
tour of Scotland &
Ireland. What they really
wanted being a sight of
home. That was what, when
pressed, they SAID they'd
been doing. Everyone but
Xavier believed them. KG. 9.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

The man in the dark coat leaned against the wall, polishing his glasses on his shirt.

"Damn this job" he thought, as he replaced his glasses. Striding down the corridor he reflected on how nice it would be to be behind his old typewriter with the security of Howard & Shanna. Still, he reflected, he had taken the only job within comics that he could get.

"After all I've written, I end up employed by THEM!" The irony was not lost on him. His train of thought was derailed as he heard a cracking sound from the room to his right. He glanced through the open doorway, & barely managed to avoid a bright red beam that pulsed passed him & smashing a gaping hole in the wall. He ducked behind a pillar, so intent on observing a blue elf running out of the room, that he failed to notice his calling card drop from his pocket. Remaining where he was, he heard a voice from the room.

"Open the windows, Jean. If I've told him once I've told him a thousand times. It'll take hours for the smell to disappear."

The man shrugged his shoulders & carried on down the corridor. Glancing through another door he saw a vertiginous giant of a man putting Lego bricks together. These people were weird.

"What God awful characterisation", he remarked to himself, turning a corner reaching the door to the study.

"OK. Freeze, bub. I dunno what 'Steve Gerber CCA Investigator' means but one thing's for sure, you ain't no business in our HQ." a rasping voice shouted in his ear.

The man searched his pockets for his calling card, trying hard not to notice his coat being torn to shreds by quick moving claws.

The study door opened & a bald gentleman in a wheelchair apparently using ventriloquism (cos' he spoke without moving his lips) said, "The man has an appointment, I believe?"

"Oh yeah", the man replied backing up slowly through the door, & quickly closing it after him.

He sat on the offered chair. "Thanks. I'm here on behalf of the CCA". The invalid raised an eyebrow. "The Comics Code Authority.

"Now I believe you star with a team of mutants in a monthly best selling comic?"

"That is correct, Mr. Gerber" he replied. Wonderful trick that, wonder why he doesn't have a dummy.

"Well, your comic has been temporary suspended while we investigate complaints levelled against it. You do realize that in a recent American survey your comic was rated to contain "excessive violence, gore & sex"?"

A frown slowly darkened on the invalid's face.

"There's also people claiming that your group contains a killer, a former not yet acquitted criminal, 2 illegal immigrants & a pet of dubious nature. I also suggest you have a rather ambiguous relationship between a caucasian & a non-caucasian."

Despite going through the formalities of his speech, the man's thoughts were entirely different. 'This is what I've thought against for years. Is black & white wrong anywhere but South Africa. The CCA didn't say anything about duck & white, or celestial couplings.'

The invalid finally opened his mouth when he replied, "It would appear that you have me by the short & curlies, pilgrim."

"Who writes his dialogue?"

"It gives me no pleasure..."

"Yes, I'm sure it does. But I have taken precautions against this."

"Scott, our contingency plan please."



A man with a thick framed sunglasses which looked fancier than any thing Frank Robbins had ever drew came in. The man was more startled that the clawed midget was still by the door. "If you would follow me."

There was a glint behind the visor, & the man felt obliged to follow.

"Can I skrag him now?" the rasping voice of the midget asked.

"Save your claws for Kirby," the other replied.

The man was led into a room with a big 'X' on the door.

"Well, can I scag that big prehistoric bird instead?"

The winged lizard turned to the midget, "Go 'skag' Weapon Alpha. As a non-villain & fully paid union member, I am entitled to as many appearances that I can make...which is difficult commuting from the Savage Land." The reptile turned to the man. "Look in my eyes & forget those reports. The comic is a happy family comic."

The invalid & the blue elf, sitting on a light stand, watched the man walk out to the main gates, to a car chauffeured by a duck smoking a cigar.

"But, Herr Proffessor, won't his memory come back eventually?"

"No pilgrim," the invalid replied, putting on a toupee & sticking on a false moustache. "If it did, we can always skag him."

"Now leave me to think...I have to cash in on this Superman movie." The elf vanished in a gush of smoke, the 'invalid' got up & didn't seem to notice the smell.

"Ah, got it. I'll revive Omega-but call him SIGMA. Noone will notice the difference cos we can put a big 'S' of hischest. Another triumph for mighty MARVEL. Fizzling Forbushes, I see it all now. We'll put another 'S' on his cape & employ him at the Bugle as a journalist-maybe even take over a tv studio. I'll have him fall, accidentally, into an oven & get heat vision; fall into a fluoro-scope & get X-ray vision.

"Ambidextrous armadillos! I'll have the planet he came from KRAPTON, & he can't stand GREEN Kraptonite cos he doesn't like green.

I'll have multisonic Marv write it & Jolly Jack draw it & the peerless ones of Marvel-dom Assembled will love it."

I draw a curtain on these rantings believing against all indications that there's hope yet. Merry X-Mas all.

FRANK PLOWRIGHT '78



X-mas presents

It's X-MAS (ouch!) at Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. We wondered what kind of gifts the X-MEN would receive or get.

ANGEL : a harp (#67)

BEAST : pink bows (#51)

flea repellent (#67;53)

CYCLOPS: ruby quartz contact lenses (#53;57); glue for a broken heart (#52)

ICEMAN : cocktail cabinet (to go with the ice) (#67)

PHOENIX: an urn (for her ashes) (#53)

PIGTHCRAWLER: air freshner (#52;67)

STORM : an umbrella (#67); a chisel (so she doesn't copy Thor) (#53).



COLOSSUS : rust remover (#67); silver polish (#52); indestructible leggings (#53)

BANSHEE : throat spray (#67); a new costume (#53)

WOLVERINE : immac (#51); adamantium nail file (#67); a scratching post (#52)

PROF. X : a toupee (#67); a motorised wheelchair (#52)

LELANDRA : birdseed (#51)

SUNFIRE : a fire extinguisher (#67)

POLARIS : a magnetic (or any) personality (#53)

Contributions from : John Gatehouse (#67) Ginny Brennan (#52) & Frank Plowright (#53)

..CRY HAVOK!

Just a word about HAVOK. A personal favourite of mine. I have always felt that he has been vastly under-used. From his premiere appearance (#54/55), it was stressed that his power was of an uncontrollable nature demonstrated by his somewhat casual destruction of an ENTIRE Egyptian temple (#56). By #58, he apparently had a little more control, as he merely restricts it to disintegrating a sentinel-adopting at the same time a snazzy "actis pose". In #59 we again have a controlled display as he writes off another sentinel, but this time (we are reminded) it runs out of control & he is barely able to force a containing implosion-nearly finishing himself off.



Accordingly, Mr. Summers (Alex, that is) is rushed to a certain Dr. Karl Lykos for treatment; however, the good doctor's "treatment" is a little extraordinary to say the least-what with siphoning energy off his patients just to survive, & all that. Understandably, Lykos can't believe his luck when Havok is delivered into his tender care & greedily starts draining the unconscious Alex Summers, only belatingly realizing that too much of a good thing can be bad for a mutant variant. So SAURON arrives on the scene (this is the origin of Sauron too-despite his eyes changing colour in #115). This results in a little tussle with your favourite mutants in which Havok discreetly fades off the scene (along with Ms. Dane, natch!)

Nothing dramatic happens then (apart from cancellation) 'till #150 of the INCREDIBLE HULK, where we find that Havok has retreated to a desert hideaway to protect the rest of the world from his power (thoughtful type, eh?). Unfortunately, he meets up with the Hulk, or maybe, unfortunately for the Hulk since he's the lose in the encounter, & Havok trots off (with Ms. Dane...again) into the sunset.

A brief shot in Captain America #174 does little for our man in black, while an appearance in GS#1X-Men reunites him with the mutant fold.

Enter X-MEN #97 & it's Havok vs. the X-Men-need I say, one of my favourite fight scenes. Intending to just stop Xavier's light aircraft, Havok is 'distracted' by Nightcrawler & more or less erases a Boeing 707. Great stuff-good Cockrum art visuals-Exit Havok.

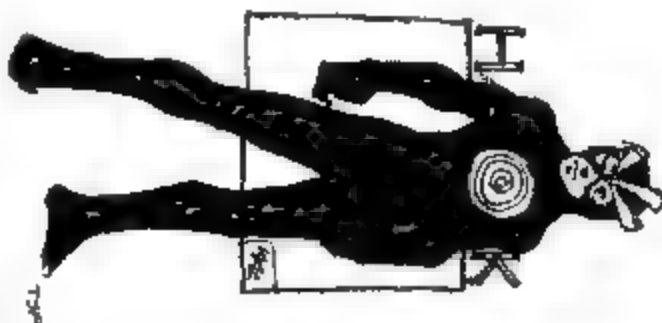
An appearance in MARVEL TEAM-UP #69 confirms both Havok's growing control of his power & his confidence in using it.

So, far Havok has been virtually untapped-the man's a living powerhouse. He could give the SILVER SURFER a run for his money & is definitely on par with PHOENIX (when her power is working). His power, also, is very visual; with his all-black to all-white colour transformation & those concentric circles that start appearing everywhere.

So where is he now? Bundled off to Moria's island by Claremont! Come on, Chris. I want to see him cut loose (preferably in the middle of NEW YORK). I want to see him rip up the roads & pavements, bring down city blocks, topple the EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, screw up cars & trucks & generally level the area. Then, he'd be living up to his name.

So, I beseech you, Mr. Claremont DON'T CRY HAVOK UNTIE HAVOK!

DAVID BRUSEY '78



Isn't an X-MAN FREAK kinda contradictory?
LAHART 12

POLARISATION

X-FAN : 57

- When Lorna Dane first appeared way back in # 49, complete with green hair & latent mutant abilities, I didn't really take that much notice -she was just going to be another 'Zelda'. However, as the memorable, Steranko-drawn 'M-2' sequence developed, I had high hopes of her becoming one of the more interesting Marvel females (the I'm just-as-powerful-as-the-men-&-deserve-to-be-treated-as-an-equal type) -was I wrong !!

Like many others she showed a few occasional bursts of power that were worthy of her male comrades, but, just like Marvel Girl, Sue Richards, Wanda & a host of others, it was then a case of Bobby/Scott/Reed/Vision (delete as applicable) - SAVE ME !! And, of course, the extremes that her power reached were even more ludicrous than those of her contemporaries, because she wasn't in the limelight all the time : eg. # 57 -She showed considerable difficulty in magnetically levitating a tray. of. GS # 1 - Well, she was in pain, but she managed to blast Krakoa off the face of the Earth -cute trick !!

So what were Marvel to do with her after # 52 ? Well, they did the most unimaginative thing possible -gave her a powerful boyfriend & used her as a kind of Havok-bait. So you get Havok vs. Hulk (HULK # 150); Havok vs. Sentinels (# 57); Havok vs. Living Monolith (MARVEL TEAM-UP # 69 - 70), etc.. The reason she was kept on in the X-MEN book was to create a Bobby/Lorna/Alex love triangle- after all, it was working in all the other books (Namor/Sue/Reed ; Hawkeye/Wanda/Vision) & when Warren met Candy Southern in # 31 the relationship between himself, Jean & Scott had ended. So Lorna was left as an even more cardboard-like figure than when she had first been introduced.

With her debut as POLARIS in # 97, an attempt was made to make Ms. Dane slightly more...uh...well the phrase "laid back" was being used a great deal at the time.

Now, apart from the new Cockrum costume, & the more visually exciting powers (perhaps boosted in some way by Eric the Red ?), what changes have



you seen in Lorna Dane ? If she was as liberated as claimed by fans of the NEW X-MEN, surely there would be some sign of it. I'm not saying that there's no place for a really FEMININE female super hero, but her appearances in such books as DEFENDERS # 63 ("I wish I wasn't on Nighthawk's team") & MARVEL TEAM-UP # 69 ("Alex..be careful of your power !") are set alongside displays of awesome power so you don't know whether she's "laid back" or scared of her own shadow.

If we have to suffer such appearances as MARVEL TEAM-UP # 69, in which she fights alongside Havok, gets thrown off a cliff, sees him kidnapped & then phones the Beast & does NOTHING FURTHER, then, in my opinion, we had better resign ourselves to thinking of her as useful for :

- 1) Introducing Havok into the storyline
- 2) Providing a bit of glamour or
- 3) achieving the odd miracle, as with Krakoa.....

Or maybe she could start a compass factory...

DAVE FREEDMAN '78/3.

AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

WANTED ITEMS BY X-FAN : 77

X-MEN : 1;3;4;7;8;9;13;25;39;42;46;
48;88;94;107;111;115;116
KS#2; GS#1

NOT BRAND ECHH : 2 E-MAN : 2

DOOMSDAY + 1 : 3; 7

SHADE : 1;2;3;9; ETERNALS : 19

CHARLTON BILLSEYE : 2;4

MACHINE MAN : 2;3;5;

ASTONISHING TALES : 24

CREATURES ON THE LOSSE : 17;25

ALSO Man From Uncle; Danger Man;

Invaders; Twilight Zone; Outer Limits;

Prisoner books, mags or scripts.

If you have them to SELL, please

write to J.GUY.

ADAD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD**AD

pantomime time

Pantomime Season hits us again, & when the X-Men aren't fighting to save the universe, they take parts to give them acting experience : COLOSSUS & STORM in BABES IN THE WOOD NIGHTCRAWLER as PUSS IN BOOTS PHOENIX as CINDERELLA (with WOLVERINE as BUTTONS) SUNFIRE as the genie in ALADDIN HENRY P. MCCOY in BEAUTY & THE BEAST (no prizes for which part) The 2 veterans of the X-MEN have turned their talents to a play & a film !

BANSHEE is in CHORUS LINE (with other such vocalists as Klaw; Black Bolt & Loreli)

CYCLOPS is to appear as the villain in the latest James Bond film : THE SPY WHO FRIED ME !



**BUT WOLVERINE
... HE WASN'T
A SUPER-
VILLAIN !**

X-PLETIVES

X-FAN : 62

Thanks for CEREBRO # 2. All in all it was a great improvement on # 1 - it lacked that "rushed" quality that the previous issue had (although I suppose it was excusable since you had to get it out for COMICON). Keep the new logo as the quality of a logo can make or break a cover. I liked Perez's back cover although I think I would have preferred a straight forward WOLVERINE pic. by him. **THERE WERE 9 KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DONE, I HAVE A COPY OF ONE, ANY VOLUNTEERS FOR COPIES OF THE OTHERS**

The artwork in this issue was much better than # 1 - I really liked some of Dave Freedman's stuff. The Cyclops article was interesting, although not informative because I already knew it all (modest, huh? **YEP!***) but the "DID YOU KNOW" piece was informative. Survey was a good idea because it enables you to get to know the members better- you should include some more in future issues asking questions about things other than the X-MEN. "Interlude" was well written & makes me realize how badly written my essay was. Oh well, can't win 'em all...

The "Colossus: Forced Mutation" put forward some interesting theories, imagine an all Russian X-Men. Since I was at the 'CON with you I know what fun it was & recommend as many people as possible to go next year. I haven't had the time or the courage to try the X-Word yet, but it looks pretty taxing.

DAVE HORNSBY '78

X-FAN : 75

Well, that wasn't a bad issue at all. I found the COMICON report very interesting, while the Cyclops article was informative reading.

Note to all readers. Whether you loved or hated it # 2's 'INTERLUDE' was NOT a solo effort. Our humble editor, while following the basic plotline DID make a few changes which, I personally, thought it made BETTER reading. **AW SHUCKS I I SHOULDN'T HAVE PRINTED THAT OUT OF SHEER MODESTY. I EXPECTED JOHN TO SEND MUTANT : X AFTER ME**

I see C.M.N.I.'s LES CHESTER thought CEREBRO "A BIT JUVENILE". I presume he meant the PROBLEM PAGE in # 1. Perhaps he's correct but I found that no more juvenile than the current 'DAN DIRE' saga now running in CMNI. JOHN PARKER '78



X-FAN : 84

CEREBRO is OBVIOUSLY cashing in on the current X-MEN craze, but I'm not damning it because of it; it means I can chat about what I think is the most exciting thing I've seen in comics for MONTHS, namely the superb writing & characterisation of Chris Claremont & some of the best superhero art I've seen by John Byrne. Why are they so good I wonder, could the answer lie in that they were both British born?

2 was an improvement on the premiere number, but the artwork was a sore point, 'though the problem wasn't as bad as the first issue, but there were far too many 'head & shoulder' drawings. You SHOULD make sure there is only ONE drawing of Cyclops, ONE of Phoenix, ONE of Storm, etc.. There are other X-MEN team members BESIDES this new team; I haven't seen one illo of the ORIGINAL BEAST, for example.

And one more point : Is this the 'Official X-Men Fan Club' or the 'Official ALL-DIFFERENT, ALL NEW X-Men Fan Club'? An emphasis on the ORIGINAL members would be appreciated for a while. And what about the INHUMANS? Are they not MUTANTS? How 'bout an article on THEM?

But despite my comments, I hope you'll continue to strive to make the Fanz BETTER & BETTER. A couple of things I DID like was the new logo & some of that great art by Dave Hornsby. DAVID EDGE '78

X-FAN : 67

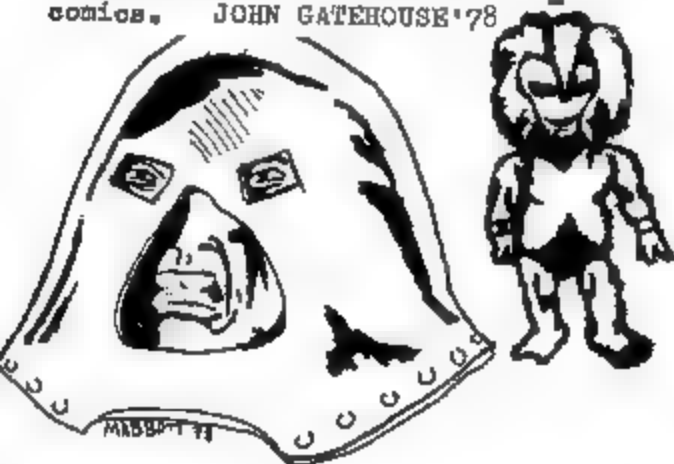
Thanks very much for the postere, they are well worth the price.

Do you think it is possible to produce a protective polythene bag for CEREBRO as a club product ?

****MAYBE IF THERE'S A DEMAND FOR IT****

Did you read the review of CEREBRO in the latest issue of CMN ? The reviewer called it 'JUVENILE' with too much fan worship. He's allowed to have his own opinion but I totally disagree with him ! You have worked very hard to produce a PROFESSIONAL fanzine. ****SEMI-PRO - BUT NO MATTER**** There might be a feeling of 'FAN-WORSHIP' to the 'zine but you did not

publish it to allow us to rip the X-MEN comic apart at every little mistake that crops up (as many zines, including CMN, are guilty of when reviewing/discussing comics !). Also CEREBRO allows more of the 'QUIET' SIDE OF FANDOM (people like myself) to take an active interest in fanzines by getting us to write. If it hadn't been for the X-MEN FAN CLUB I would still be on the outside of fandom looking in. Now I spend as much time writing letters as I do reading comics. JOHN GATEHOUSE '78



X-FAN : 59

So far I have been slightly impressed with CEREBRO & I feel it is being done well despite it's obvious lack of material. As there is a limit too what you can write about a subject & there's not a great deal of material you can write on the X-MEN that is really interesting.

I like the detailed origins, both Prof. X & Cyclops were very informative; a lot of it I didn't know, even though I have read most of said issues of X-MEN.

PAUL BUCKTON '78

X-FAN : 68

I loved CEREBRO # 1, well most of it. Dave Hornsby's THUNDERBIRD illo with the R.I.P. more than made up for Kathleen Glancy's Wolvie thing, which to say the least was crazy. I know everyone has the right to their own opinion & credit it for her work despite picking on the most popular X-Man, according to the EAGLE AWARDS. Anyway, the point she made that Wolvie was a loner. Well, he wasn't, he cited 'friends' at Vahalla Base (#94) & Jimmie Hudson (#109) as friends. Attacking his fellow X-Men, Wolvie tends to hold back long enough for them to escape injury & tends to be the first to help when they are beaten down-like Nightcrawler in # 96 against Kierrok, whom he had previously threatened. Likewise, with Cyclops in # 110. In # 111, Wolverine could quite easily have walked off after he freed himself, but thoughtfully(?) freed the rest of the X-Men first. I think Wolverine wants friendship but on his own terms. MIAE TEAQUE '78



X-FAN : 65

I have read many points of view on the Wolvie Argument (not just from CEREBRO, but also some from friends) differing incredibly.

From the CMN interview, I found that Chris Claremont does not take Wolvie as a psychopath, but merely a human with a distorted view of reality. This, I find very hard to swallow. Check #116 when he kills the sentry for apparently no reason. Claremont tends to talk about the emotional side of Wolvie & how his affects him. RHUBARB!!

In IRON FIST #15, he thinks to himself how he used to pick up "Broads" then dump them. This tends to suggest that he is quite obstinate on his point of view. He seems to be one of the "this is life, make the most of it" thinkers.

This in no way would keep the same ideas as his psychopath attitude, I mean, 'life on the run' is not waking

the most of it, dig?

Moving on to the "he's like an animal" idea. Forget it, animals only kill when really threatened or hungry. An antelope has no fear of walking past a lion that has just fed. Then why did Wolverine kill the sentry when he could have just been put out of commission. Also in #96, why did he go for Nightcrawler?

The last major idea is the "Oh, he's a raving lunney, spit on his shoes & he'll cut your head off" idea. Sorry, Kathleen Glancy. No dice. #115 shows this. Nightcrawler lobbs a snowball at him. Does he get mad with this challenge? NO! #103, when he is lobbed over the castle does he want to kill Colossus? NO! He refers to the Russkie as an idiot for throwing him too far. Something that was pointed out to me by a friend is how Wolverine 'snaps' when he realizes (#100) that the X-Sentinel is not Jeannie, but another creature, robot or whatever. "He doesn't mind what it is as long as it isn't Jeannie" would seem to be the logical answer. Yet is it? I mean he didn't kill Oracle when he could have, nor any other Imperial Guard, we all take it as. **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO FANG?**

Claremont seems to be oblivious to what he is doing. He as good as states in his interview that Wolverine does not kill for any reason what so ever. Yet, he kills a sentry in #116. It seems to me, obviously, that throughout Wolverine's appearances he is in complete control of himself. Everything he does seems rational to him. Yet not because of a twisted reality. No, it's self evident this is not the case to me. Although no doubt not to most of you. It seems that he cannot cope with what is in front of him (Please re-read the appropriate section of #100).

BAZ BOND'78



X-FAN : 66

First, the crossword-prepare yourself for a hostile hypersonic visit. Sean is NOT a Briton. Sean is an IRISHMAN and, as the citizen of a country that spent 856 years fighting NOT to be British, probably wouldn't like being called so. Moira I can't answer for, though if she's a SCOTTISH NATIONALIST she mightn't like it either.

The Colossus theory is interesting. It might explain his contradictory stories of his family. The existence of DARKSTAR & her friend with the hammer & sickle (**VANGUARD**) add weight to this theory.

Now then, the Wolverine. All seen X-MEN #116? In which he commits a COLD-BLOODED, unnecessary, brutal murder. Probably only the need for quiet made him do it quickly. Anyone who maintains that he is sane must accept another fact. He is, if he is sane, EVIL. The only excuse for his action is MADNESS.

DO NOT, please, yell 'ANIMAL INSTINCTS'. An animal will only kill another creature which is standing perfectly still for one reason: HUNGER. Incidentally, the business with Zebu was ridiculous. If Wolverine has animal instincts they are presumably those of a wolverine. (The wolverine or glutton is a minor member of the weasel family. It will fight when cornered, but will

run if there is an opening. It kills weaker animals with what seems to be viciousness, but is actually stupidity. It has an inordinate appetite but cannot gauge when it has killed enough food). While two members of different species but the same family can form alliances- lions & tigresses have mated, so have tigers & lionesses- it does not apply between different groups. A lion & a rodent (weasel) would fight, NOT communicate. So would a sabre-tooth & a wolverine. So, therefore, would Zebu & the Wolverine. Or if it didn't come to that, & it mightn't since Zebu is an intelligent creature, they certainly wouldn't be all buddy-buddy.

Back to Wolverine's mental state. He is unbalanced as well as homicidal. He has, it appears, forgotten that Jean never shared his 'plans for us'. He seems a bit schitzoid too- his idea to hunting in #109, & his gleefully killing mutants, his mouthing off to

Banshee 'she went down to save a life' when he himself casually took a life earlier. If you maintain he is sane, accept something else. He's a disgusting hypocrite. The killing SHOULD permanently affect Storm & Nightcrawler-would YOU want a person you'd seen commit a brutal murder near you ? But I doubt if Claremont, whose pet, the Wolverine is, & who is engaged in character assassination of nearly everyone else, will have the guts to follow this up.

KATHLEEN GLANCY '78

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE, BUT DID ANYBODY SEE THE DEAD BODY ?? ALL WE SAW WERE THE REACTIONS ON STORM & NIGHTCRAWLER'S FACES & ACCEPTED THE WORST-BUT THEN THEY'RE GUILTY OF NOT CHECKING THE BODY WITH SHOWING CONCERN FOR THE REST OF THE TEAM WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED UNLESS THEY HAD GOT THROUGH

X-FAN : 52

I re-read X-MEN #116 & can only express how happy I am that Wolvie got a chance to show his stuff. I loved the bit with Zabu (Wolvie's always reminded me of a big wild cat). I hope we get to see more of

this sort of thing. I was also interested in his comment on how noone can break his bones & how easily he heals. A comment to Steve Whatley (#76). I agree that a lot of Wolvie's talk & actions are buff (partly to seem super-masculine), but-also, as I've said before, due to his height (or lack of it). We short people gotta be twice as mean & tough than you tall people.**INTERESTING POINT CONSIDERING THAT BOTH GINNY & KATHLEEN GLANCY ARE ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT** A lot of Wolvie's actions are also due to his not being able to show or put into words his feelings. You cited the flowers incident. How COULD he have walked in with flowers with everyone else there ? It would have let them know he had feelings too; which would have embarrassed him & destroyed his image. It isn't all masculine ego with Wolvie, it must also be in part, his basic loner instinct that will not allow him to act truly human. But, little by little, his real feelings show-as in #116 when he stops Sean from going to Orroro. He knows what goes on in other people's heads-probably make a good psychologist cos' he's been there, too. He knows when privacy is needed & guards his own closely.

I'm also wondering about Orroro, a black (not colored, that term isn't used in the States. It is considered degrading & prejudicial) woman is getting on in a white, male dominated group ? Having come from an area of the world which is predominantly black. Does she feel out of place or uncomfortable ? With her hair color & blue eyes & staying with her white schoolmates is she accepted by the rest of the black community ? Does she try to join in any black groups ? Would she be accepted ? Would they consider her a phoney or sell out ? There is much racial tension in the States. Black people often have a narrow attitude towards other blacks who are friendly to whites. It tends to make me wonder if Orroro has been exposed to this attitude ? If not, it's about time Marvel did, they have before & should here.

GINNY BRENNAN '78

The SOCIETY OF X-MEN HATERS announce that their next guest speaker will be the WOLVERINE. He has promised to listen to all your abuse. Funeral arrangements should be made well in advance of meeting. BAZ BOND '78



PROJECTS

PROJECT NEWS :

PROJECT : 1A -the ANGEL index will probably be enclosed in the next edition of CEREBRO.

PROJECT : 1B -Baz Bond is currently sorting out MAGNETO & the BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS . It would be appreciated if you have a large comic collection to help trace their history in the Marvel Universe in chronological order.

PROJECT : 2 -Nick Almond tells me that the mansion has been periodically rebuilt, so any member with consecutive issues in sequence can help work out what appears in each room

& then work out their relation to each other. Then, by comparison, a final masterplan with a list of known alterations can be made available. So on this type of GROUNDWORK, most members ought to be able to provide some info..

PROJECT : 4 -I only have one month in so far. Theme : X-MEN IN ACTION. Artists, I'd like a rough layout of intended drawing. Write to me for additional details.

POST AUCTION

The CLUB has for SELL, 1 PRISTINE MINT edition of FOOM # 10-featuring the X-MEN ! This has been donated by DAVE CUTLER (#55) as a CLUB-FUND RAISER. The terms of sell are by POSTAL AUCTION. Bids must be more than £1.50 & sent to me in a sealed envelope which will not be opened until 18th JANUARY 1979. Highest bid at that time will then be asked to send money within 7 days. Failure to do so, & the next highest bid will be asked under the same rules. Should the same highest bid be called by more than 1 person the earliest date will act as decider. Since this is liable to raise the price of FOOM # 10-final sell-price will not be disclosed. Editor's decision is final & all members who bid must conform to the above rules or face disqualification from this auction. Sealed envelope should have address & an S.A.E. & should be sent to me in another envelope. LAMPREY '78

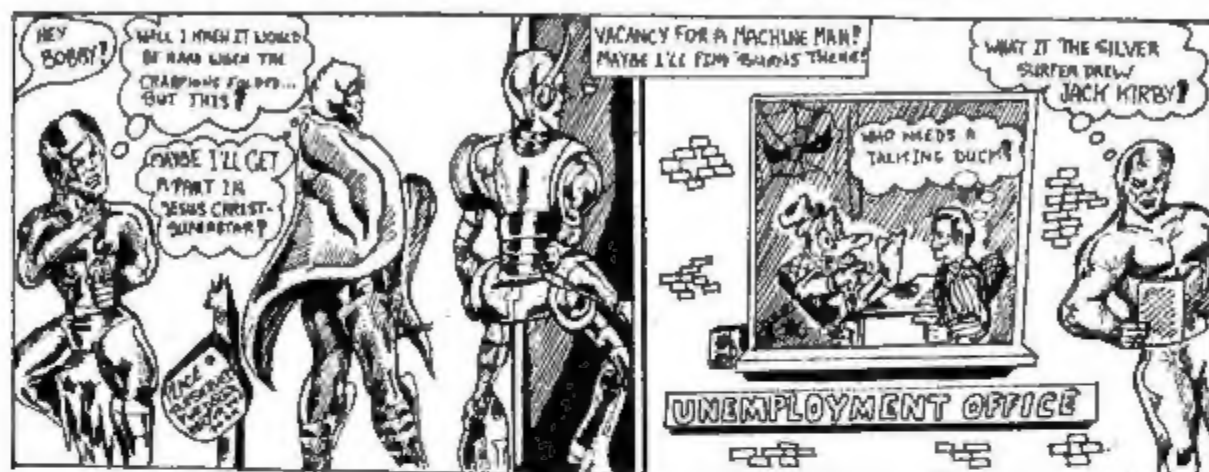


WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BOBBY DRAKE??

MARVEL

CONCEPT/IDEA: DAVE CUTLER

ARTIST: GEOFF LAMPREY



LESTER FREAMON

LESTER FREAMON: THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE



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